

REMARKS

You are requested to reconsider the rejection of claims 1 through 16 as being unpatentable over Aldridge. Each independent claim has been amended to claim a method "wherein, if a tactical situation, in which a need for low visibility overrides a need for high visibility, develops or is expected to develop, the military or paramilitary firefighter or emergency worker wearing the protective garment with the shell of high visibility facing outwardly is motivated to doff the protective garment, to reverse the protective garment, and to re-don the protective garment with the shell of low visibility facing outwardly."

The applicants submit that Aldridge teaches away from the claimed methods, in which a military or paramilitary firefighter or emergency worker wearing the protective garment with the shell of high visibility facing outwardly is motivated in a tactical situation to doff the protective garment, to reverse the protective garment, and to re-don the protective garment with the shell of low visibility facing outwardly.

Because the collar 20, the slide fastener 24 or other closure means, and the storm flap 26 would become inoperative if the outer shell 12 of Aldridge were to be turned "inside out," because the collar 42 and the slide fastener 32 or other closure means would become inoperative if the inner liner 14 of Aldridge were to be turned "inside out," and because neither the outer shell 12 of Aldridge nor the inner liner 14 of Aldridge would provide adequate protection in a firefighting situation, if turned "inside out," a military or paramilitary firefighter or emergency worker wearing the Aldridge garment would not be motivated to doff the Aldridge

Application No. 10/782,273

Art Unit 3765

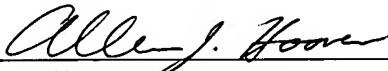
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garment, to reverse the Aldridge garment, and to re-don the Aldridge garment with its innermost liner facing outwardly.

The applicants submit, therefore, that all claims are patentable in view of the preceding amendments. The applicants solicit your allowance of all claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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